



State of Wisconsin \ GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

Jim Doyle, Governor

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To: The Citizens of Wisconsin

The Honorable Governor Jim Doyle
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Secretary Frank Busalacchi - Department of Transportation
Secretary Mary Burke - Department of Commerce
Secretary Rod Nilsestuen - Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
Secretary Helene Nelson - Department of Health and Family Services
Secretary Scott Hassett - Department of Natural Resources
President Kevin P. Reilly - University of Wisconsin System
State Geologist James Robertson - Geological and Natural History Survey

The Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) is pleased to release its 2006 Report to the Legislature. The GCC was formed in 1984 to help state agencies coordinate non-regulatory activities and exchange information on groundwater. For the past 22 years, the GCC has served as a model for interagency coordination and cooperation among state agencies, the Governor, local and federal government, and the university. It is one of the few groups in the nation to effectively coordinate groundwater activities in its state from an advisory position.

This report summarizes GCC and agency activities related to groundwater protection and management in FY 06 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006) and provides an overview of the condition of the groundwater resource. See the *Executive Summary* for highlights and the GCC's recommendations in *Future Directions for Groundwater Protection*. The full report will be made available online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gcc/rtl/gccreport.htm>.

Highlights of the State's groundwater protection activities this past year include:

- The first year of implementation of the new groundwater legislation 2003 Wisconsin Act 310. The Groundwater Advisory Committee continued to meet regularly and made significant progress on groundwater management areas and other issues. DNR secured funding, hired staff and took several steps to implement the new law.
- Key groundwater information and education publications were revised including *Groundwater: Wisconsin's Buried Treasure* a Natural Resources Magazine insert, and the *Groundwater Study Guide*, a popular DNR publication for teachers. Additionally, agency and UW staff supported teacher workshops, a groundwater festival for students, Farm Technology Days, county groundwater programs and other educational outreach opportunities.

- The UW Water Resources Library put online many UW and DNR monitoring and research final reports. The reports are included in the widely accessible UW Ecology and Natural Resources Digital Collection <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/EcoNatRes.Groundwater>.

We hope you will find this report to be a useful reference in protecting Wisconsin's valuable groundwater resource.

Sincerely,

Todd Ambs, Chair
Groundwater Coordinating Council